# *One-year* Index

**How to use this index** This page lists reports in 1996. Note that, beginning this year (volume 61), CONSUMER REPORTS is no longer paginated continuously throughout each volume year; instead, each issue begins on page 1. Below, **bold type** indicates Ratings reports or brand-name discussions; *italic type*, corrections, follow-ups, or updates. **Color digits** are codes for ordering reports by fax or mail. (No code number or * means a report is not available by fax.) To order, call 800 766-9988. You can use MasterCard, Visa, or American Express. Each report is $7.75. Add $2.00 outside the U.S. When you call, have ready the report's code number and your charge-card number and expiration date.


**A**ir cleaners and ozone ... *59 Mar 96*
9761—Air-conditioners ... **38 Jun 96**
5473—Airfares, cutting ... 64 May 96
Attorneys, selecting ... 34 Feb 96
Automobile ratings:
9456—Acura 2.5 TL ... **46 Feb 96**
9513—Acura 3.5 RL ... **46 Nov 96**
9507—Acura SLX ... **10 Oct 96**; *5, 6 Nov 96*
9456—Audi A4 ... **46 Feb 96**
9513—BMW 528i ... **46 Nov 96**
9447—Buick Le Sabre ... **52 Jan 96**; *57 Feb 96*
9499—Chevrolet C1500 Silverado ... **50 Sep 96**
9508—Chevrolet Tahoe ... **13 Oct 96**
9457—Dodge (and Plymouth) Neon Highline ... **52 Mar 96**
9471—Dodge (and Plymouth) Neon Sport ... **50 May 96**
9459—Dodge Caravan LE ... **40 Jul 96**
9499—Dodge Ram 1500 Laramie SLT ... **50 Sep 96**
9493—Ford Contour GL ... **48 Aug 96**
9499—Ford F150 XLT ... **50 Sep 96**
9447—Ford Taurus LX ... **52 Jan 96**
9489—GMC Safari ... **40 Jul 96**
9447—Honda Accord EX ... **52 Jan 96**
9471—Honda Civic EX ... **50 May 96**
9457—Honda Civic LX ... **52 Mar 96**
9456—Infiniti I30 ... **46 Feb 96**
9507—Isuzu Trooper ... **10 Oct 96**; *5, 6 Nov 96*
Land Rover Discovery ... *59 Jan 96*
9513—Lincoln Continental ... **46 Nov 96**
9489—Mazda MPV LX ... **48 Jul 96**
9513—Mercedes-Benz E320 ... **46 Nov 96**
9489—Mercury Villager GS ... **40 Jul 96**
9471—Nissan 200SX SE-R ... **50 May 96**
9508—Nissan Pathfinder ... **13 Oct 96**
9493—Oldsmobile Achieva SL Series III ... **48 Aug 96**
9493—Plymouth Breeze ... **48 Aug 96**
Plymouth Neon. *See* Dodge Neon
9493—Pontiac Grand Am SE ... **48 Aug 96**
9471—Pontiac Sunfire GT ... **50 May 96**
9457—Saturn SL1 ... **52 Mar 96**
9478—Subaru Legacy Outback ... **58 Jun 96**
9457—Suzuki Esteem GLX ... **52 Mar 96**
9478—Suzuki Sidekick Sport JLX ... **52 Jun 96**
9478—Suzuki X90 ... **52 Jun 96**
9508—Toyota 4Runner ... **13 Oct 96**
9447—Toyota Camry LE ... **52 Jan 96**
9478—Toyota RAV4 ... **52 Jun 96**
9471—Volkswagon Golf GTI ... **50 May 96**
Automobiles & automotive equipment:
air-conditioner refrigerants ... *57 Jul 96*
antilock brakes, "add-on" ... *59 Mar 96*
5483—auto maintenance ... 18 Jul 96
9406—body dimensions ... **62 Apr 96**
9583—buying a new car ... 56 Apr 96
9487—buying a used car ... **58 Apr 96**
child safety seats ... *7 Jan 96; 6 Oct 96; 52 Nov 96*
in airplanes ... 6 Aug 96
9379—crash tests ... 14, **52 Apr 96**
electric cars ... 41 Sep 96
Ford ignition-switch recall ... 8 Jul 96
9405—frequency-of-repair records ... **72 Apr 96**
9516—gasoline ... 54 Nov 96
9983—leasing ... 58 Apr 96; 6 Oct 96
Land Rover Discovery, reliability ... *4 Jun 96*
"lemon laundering" ... 7 Nov 96
9406—mechanical specifications ... **62 Apr 96**
9486—motor oils ... **10 Jul 96**
9985—optional equipment ... 60 Apr 96
profiles, 1996 ... **20 Apr 96**; *64 Sep 96*
reliability, predicted, 1996 ... **50 Apr 96**
reliability, trends since 1980 ... **12 Apr 96**
9507—rollover standard ... 10 Oct 96
summarized ratings, '96 models
9484—coupes ... **48 Apr 96**
9403—large cars ... **49 Apr 96**
9403—luxury cars ... **49 Apr 96**
9989—mid-sized cars ... **48 Apr 96**
9484—minivans; station wagons ... **49 Apr 96**
9485—pickup trucks; sport-utility vehicles ... **49 Apr 96**
9988—small cars ... **48 Apr 96**
9987—sporty cars ... **49 Apr 96**
testing, explanation of CU's ... 16 Apr 96
9451—tires ... **35 Jan 96**; *4 Feb 96; 9 Oct 96; 9 Dec 96*

**B**aby food ... 56 Sep 96
Baby monitors ... 8 Oct 96; 7 Dec 96
Baby walker anchor ... 8 Dec 96
9459—Banks ... **10 Mar 96**
ATM fees ... 8 Oct 96
Batteries ... *59 Jan 96; 52 Nov 96*; 6 Dec 96
Beaches ... 10 Aug 96
9475—Beer ... **10 Jun 96**
9437—Best-Buy gifts ... 8 Nov 96
Bicycle helmets ... *57 Jul 96*
Bicycle locks ... 22 **Nov 96**
9515—Bicycles, children's ... **18 Nov 96**
9448—Bicycles, exercise ... **16 Jan 96**
Bicycles, mountain ... 7 Jul 96
Binders, loose-leaf ... 7 Aug 96
Blenders ... 7 Dec 96
9512—Blood-glucose meters ... **53 Oct 96**
9512—Blood-pressure monitors ... **50 Oct 96**
9529—Briefcases ... **28 Dec 96**

**C**amcorders ... **24 Oct 96**
9528—Cameras, compact (APS&35mm) ... **33 Dec 96**
Cameras, digital ... 6 Sep 96
9468—Cameras, single-use ... **32 May 96**
Campaign finance reform ... **9 Apr 96**
Candy, low-calorie ... 9 May 96
Car-rental companies ... **27 Jun 96**
Carbon monoxide detectors ... *57 Feb 96*; **58 Nov 96**
Cereals ... 6 Jan 96; **18 Oct 96**
9502—Chairs, "ergonomic" ... 9 May 96; **34 Sep 96**; *9 Oct 96; 9 Dec 96*
Cheese, lowfat ... **48 May 96**
Child-protection products ... 7 Jun 96; *55 Aug 96*
5482—Children, health care ... 9 Jun 96
9503—Chipper/shredders ... **45 Sep 96**
Chocolates, boxed ... **10 Feb 96**
Choiesterol ... 36 Mar 96
5505—Chronic fatigue syndrome ... 60 Sep 96
Cigarettes and kids ... 5 Dec 96
Cleansers, scouring ... **56 Aug 96**
9494—Closet-organizer kits ... **18 Aug96**
9514—Coffee makers ... **31 May 96*; **39 Nov 96**
9723—Compact-disc players ... **24 Feb 96**
minidisc ... 7 Dec 96
9443—walkabouts ... *59 Mar 96; 31 May 96; 55 Aug 96*
9531—Computers ... **18 Sep 96**; **21 Dec 96**
9529—cases ... **28 Dec 96**
CD-Rom drives ... **60 Jun 96**
donating and recycling ... 8 Dec 96
Internet and online services ... 12 May 96; 8 Aug 96
9467—modems ... **16 May 96**
9488—monitors ... **30 Jul 96**; *64 Sep 96*
9425—printers ... *31 May 96*; 25 Sep 96; **57 Oct 96**; *52 Nov 96*
Condoms ... *6 Jan 96*
Consumer issues, six key ... 6 May 96
Consumers Union, history ... 5,10 Jan 96; 9 Mar 96
Consumers Union, Suzuki lawsuit ... 6 Jul 96
9526—Cookbooks on CD-Rom ... **24 Dec 96**
Credit cards ... 31 Jan 96; *4 Mar 96*
and frequent-flier miles ... 56 Dec 96

**D**ehumidifiers ... *43 Jun 96*
5484—Dental implants ... 50 Jul 96
9522—Dentists & dental care ... 43 Dec 96
Dishwashers, recall ... 6 Aug 96
Dishwashing liquids ... **45 Feb 96**; *4 May 96*
5521—Doctors, evaluating ... 62 Nov 96
5481—Drugs, prescription, ads for ... 52 Jun 96

**E**nergy policy, U.S. ... 9 Jul 96
9519—Espresso machines ... **42 Nov 96**
5532—Exercise ... *14 Jan 96; 48 Dec 96
9453—workout machines ... **16 Jan 96**; *43 Jun 96*

**F**at, dietary, and fast food ... 6 Oct 96
Fat, dietary, imitation (olestra) ... 6 Feb 96; 6 Aug 96
7352—Fax machines & "fax-combos" ... **28 Sep 96**
Fertility clinics ... 51 Feb 96
Film, Advanced Photo System ... 6 Aug 96
Film & processors ... **34 Jun 96**; *58 Aug 96*
9517—Food, mail-order ... **12 Nov 96**
Food processors and mixers ... *31 May 96*
Frozen pops and sorbets ... **26 Jul 96**
9450—Furniture, ready-to-assemble ... **38 Mar 96**

**G**lobal warming ... 38 Sep 96
5496—Gold, investments ... 60 Aug96
9476—Grills, gas ... **18 Jun 96**

**H**air-loss remedies ... 62 Aug 96
9454—Health clubs ... 27 Jan 96
Heaters, portable electric ... *57 Feb 96; 52 Nov 96*
Hepatitis B ... 88 Apr 96
Herbal supplements ... *43 Jun 96*
Hiking boots ... **43 Mar 96**
9509—HMOs, business aspects ... 28 Oct 96
3492—HMOs and preferred provider organizations ... **28 Aug 96**
9466—Home buying ... 18 May 96
Home office layouts ... 26 Sep 96
Home theater ... 20 Mar 96
Humidifiers ... *59 Jan 96*

**I**ced-tea mixes ... 54 Aug 96
Insurance, health ... 9 Jan 96; 5, **28 Aug 96**; 5,28 Oct 96
Internet, government sites ... 8 Mar 96
Internet and online services ... 12 May 96; 8 Aug 96
5504—Investment risk ... 62 Sep 96

**J**eans ... **38 May 96**

**K**noll, Robert D. ... 8 Jul 96

9477—**L**awn mowers, self-propelled ... **44 Jun 96**; *54 Aug 96*
Lawyers, selecting ... 34 Feb 96
Light bulbs ... 7 Jul 96
9721—Loudspeakers ... **25 Feb 96**; *43 Jun 96*

9752—**M**icrowave ovens ... **43 Aug 96**; *9 Dec 96*
Miniblinds and lead ... 7 Sep 96
9466—Mortgages ... 20 May 96
Music (CDs & tapes), mail-order ... 14 Feb 96; *4 Mar 96*
5485—Mutual funds, changes in ... 52 Jul 96

9486—**N**eighborhoods ... 24 May 96

9512—**O**vulation test kits ... **49 Oct 96**

9495—**P**agers ... **23 Aug 96**
5474—Pain relievers ... 62 May 96
Parkas ... **29 Nov 96**
Pasta ... 23 Mar 96
sauces ... **23 Mar 96**
Peanut butter ... *9 Sep 96*
Pension safety ... 86 Apr 96
Personal Computers. *See* Computers
Pesticide risk ... 7 Nov 96
Popcorn, microwave ... 9 Jan 96; *9 Oct 96*
9512—Pregnancy test kits ... **48 Oct 96**

**R**adon test kits ... *59 Jan 96*
Raincoats ... **42 Oct 96**
9335—Ranges, electric ... **36 Oct 96**
9462—Ranges, gas ... **48 Mar 96**; *4 Jun 96*
9719—Receivers ... **22 Feb 96**; *59 Mar 96*
Records, personal ... 60 Nov 96
Refrigerators
9469—14, 16, 21, & 22 cu. ft., top-freezer ... **34 May 96**
9702—all styles, various sizes ... **40 Feb 96**; *31 May 96*
Restaurant chains, and chicken ... 6 Dec 96
7398—Restaurant chains, family ... **10 Sep 96**
Risk management ... 50 Dec 96

9523—**S**hampoos and conditioners ... **17 Dec 96**
9487—Skates, in-line ... **20 Jul 96**
brakes, cuff-activated ... 54 Aug 96
Smoke detectors ... *9 Oct 96*
Snacks, low-fat ... **43 Jan 96**
Stereo systems, selecting ... 18 Feb 96
9455—minisystems ... **18 Feb 96**
5472—Stock market ... 60 May 96
Stocks (initial public offerings) ... 60 Mar 96
Sunglasses ... *57 Jul 96*
Sunscreens ... *57 Jul 96*
Supersonic ear (toy) ... 6 Nov 96
Supplements, food (iron, beta carotine) ... 62 Mar 96
Swing sets ... **42 May 96**; *6 Jun 96*; *54 Aug 96*

9722—**T**ape decks ... **23 Feb 96**
5479—Taxes, property ... 84 Jun 96
Tea-makers, electric ... 8 Jul 96
Telephone calling cards ... 6 Sep 96
5511—Telephone service, long-distance ... 62 Oct 96
Telephones, corded ... *9 Dec 96*
9831—Telephones, cordless ... **57 Feb 96*; **24 Nov 96**
9524—Television, cable, alternatives ... 10 Dec 96
9524—Television, satellite-dish systems ... **10 Dec 96**
9483—Television sets, 27 inch ... **16 Mar 96**
Televisions, large-screen, repair histories ... *9 Sep 96*
Thermostats, energy-saving ... *59 Jan 96; 9 Oct 96*
5533—Tipping ... 54 Dec 96
Travel luxuries ... 54 Jul 96
Travel tips ... 24 Jun 96
9449—Treadmills ... **22 Jan 96**; *9 Sep 96*

9461—**V**acuum cleaners ... **27 Mar 96**
9491—wet/dry ... **48 Jul 96**
9446—VCRs ... **48 Jan 96**; **57 Feb 96*; **34 Nov 96**
9527—Video game systems ... **38 Dec 96**

**Y**ogurt ... **48 May 96**

**W**alkabout stereos ... *55 Aug 96*
9982—Washing machines ... **36 Jul 96**; *58 Aug 96*
Water filters, carafe ... 7 Mar 96; *43 Jun 96*
9496—Weight-control drugs ... 15 Aug 96